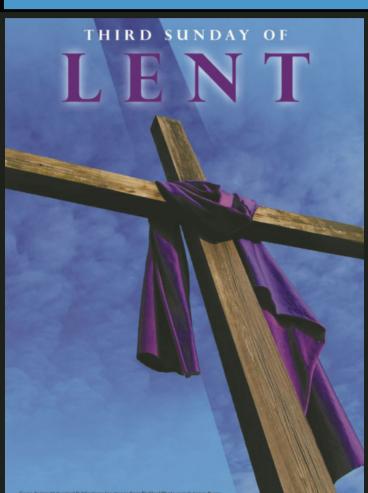


Saturday, 4:00 PM Sunday, 9:30 AM Sunday 6:15 PM

Together in Christ Collaborative Saint Ann & Saint John March 3, 2024 The Third Sunday of Lent



Sunday, 8:00 AM Sunday, 11:30 AM





and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:10

#### **Church of Saint Ann**

103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater 02379 508-586-4880

E-Mail: stanns@comcast.net
Website: stannswb.com
Facebook: St. Ann-WB

Collaborative Office Hours are 9:00-3:00 Monday through Friday

### **Saint John the Evangelist**

210 Central St., East Bridgewater 02333 Office –103 N. Main Street, West Bridgewater 508-378-4207

E-MAIL: stjohnebridge@comcast.net Website: www.stjohneb.org

Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB Fr. Paul's Facebook Page — Paul Ring OFS

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## TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor:
Rev. Paul L. Ring
fr plrstjohn@comcast.net

Permanent Deacons:

Priests In Residence
Fr. Peter Francis
Fr. Michael Diochi

Brendan Fitzgerald (Sr. Deacon) deaconbrendan@comcast.net

Christopher Connelly connelly@rcab.org

#### The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 3PM Monday-Friday

#### **EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES**

#### St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
6:15 p.m. Live streamed Mass
w/ Drive up option

Daily Mass Thurs & Sat. 9:00 a.m.

St John's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Daily Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:00 a.m.

Holiday Schedules will vary

#### SAINT ANN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Arlene Stefano stanns@comcast.net 508-586-4880

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. These baptisms are private and not done at the masses currently. Prep classes will take place before the Baptism.

Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
3:00—3:30 at the church holding the 4 PM Mass
Or by appointment.
Please call the Rectory Office to set up an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
Contact the Rectory 6 months prior to the intended date of marriage.

#### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

If you are in need of the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact the Rectory to make an appointment for a visit from a Priest.

Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

#### SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad stjohnebridge@comcast.net 508-378-4207

Music Minister: Erica Vinton



#### **COLLABORATIVE STAFF**

Finance & Operations Manager: Kevin Mercier bmanager.tic@gmail.com

Director of Music: Rich Cesarini
richcesarini@gmail.com
Assistant Music Director: Matt Cunningham

Director of Ministries: Matthew Brady directorofministries.tic@gmail.com
774-533-2002



#### St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

#### Saturday, March 2, 2024

4:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative Sunday, March 3, 2024

9:30 - Families of the Collaborative

6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

#### Saturday, March 9, 2024

4:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative Sunday, March 10, 2024

9:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative 6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

## \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### St. John is a Stewardship Parish

#### Sunday, March 3, 2024

8:00 - Patricia S. Riel — 4th Anniversary 11:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

#### Sunday, March 10, 2024

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative 11:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

#### LENTEN INFORMATION

#### Ash Wednesday — February 14, 2024

Mass at St. John's — 9:00 AM Mass at St. Ann's — 7:00 PM Service (with Ashes) at St. John's — 4 PM

#### The Light is On For You (Reconciliation) Wednesdays from 6:30—8:00 PM

Feb 21 — At St. John's

Feb 28 — At St. Ann's

Mar 06 — At St. John's

Mar 13 — At St. Ann's

Mar 20 — At St. John's

Mar 27 — At St. Ann's

#### Stations of the Cross — Fridays at 7:00 PM

Feb 16 — At St. John's

Feb 23 — At St. Ann's

Mar 01 — At St. John's (simple supper) Mar 07 — At St. Ann's

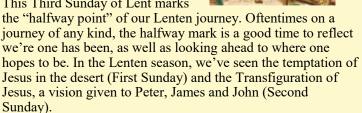
Mar 15 — At St. John's Mar 22 — At St. Ann's (6:00 PM with First **Church and hopefully a simple** 

Supper)

#### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

My Dear Friends in Christ,

This Third Sunday of Lent marks



On this Third Sunday, we have options. If there are to be candidates or catechumens for the RCIA, then there is an option to read the scriptures from "Cycle A", which give us the work of Moses in the desert, giving the Israelites water from the rock, as well as the encounter of Jesus with the woman at the well. Both of these readings are meant to "spark" in the listener the image of Baptism. It is in and through the waters of Baptism that we are brought into the Church, whether as children or adults. This image is useful for those who are seeking to enter into the Church at Easter through the RCIA process, primarily because it gives them hope, something to strive for in their prayer and study.

The other option we are given is the readings from "Cycle B", those used in the normal course of the liturgical year. In these readings, we have three distinct, yet "linked" images: the Commandments, the Cross, and the Cleansing of the Temple. In the first reading, Moses is given the Ten Commandments to help the Israelite community stay focused. They are useful for us so as to give us guidance and a set of opportunities to grow in faith, hope and love. While they are "Commandments" and are to be followed (after all, they aren't the "Ten Suggestions", as I read on a bumper sticker a while ago), they are more than just "do's and don'ts" – they are ways of living, living in God's love.

In Paul's bringing to mind the Cross, in our second reading, we have the image of that "tool of salvation" that Christ's Cross is for us. What was (and still is by the world) seen as an image of torture and death, is seen by Christians as the way to the Kingdom. It is on the Cross where Christ, once and for all time, opened the "gates of salvation". All we need do is follow!

In our gospel passage, Jesus cleanses the temple for He sees it being used as a "marketplace" and not the house of prayer that it is meant to be. He feels compelled and commanded to so out of love for the Father. It is this same fervor and zeal with which we must live our faith.

May these days and weeks of Lent give us opportunities to grow in grace. May we take advantage of every opportunity given us, so that we may grow not only in grace, but in faith, hope, love and, ultimately, Easter joy!

Have a Blessed Lent,

Fr. Paul

#### MINISTRY NEWS

#### Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

#### **March Family Mass TODAY**

Our next Family Mass is March 3rd at the 9:30 Mass. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily. There is also coffee and donuts in the back of the church after Mass.

If your child is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading please contact Matt Brady.

#### **March Teen Mass**

Our March Teen Mass is March 17 at the 6:15 Mass. There will be contemporary music and Fr. Paul will make his homily relevant to the life of our young people.

We also invite any of our teens who would like to do a reading or bring up the gifts to do so. If your teen wants to do one of these things, please contact Matt Brady.

#### **Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries**

Our next sandwich making night will be March 18 at 6:30 pm at St. John. All are welcome! This counts as service hours for Confirmation and for anyone else who needs them.

#### Soup and Stations with First Parish Church

In conjunction with our annual joint Stations of the Cross with First Parish Church, on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Ann will host a potluck soup supper at 6 pm in the parish center. Stations will follow at 7 pm in the church. All are welcome!

An offer of invitation from Nancy Smith, Director of the Holy Cross Retreat Center:

Consider yourself invited to discern a wonderful Retreat opportunity at the Holy Cross Retreat House held on various weekends from October-April. Kevin and I have lived in Cursillo, and either of us would be happy to sponsor you!

| Cursillo means "a short course in Christianity".

Cursillo is more than a retreat. It is a dynamic Christian seminar. Participants are given practical insights into the everyday life of faith and service. Through prayer, reflection, group activities, and fellowship, the weekend is designed to deepen and round out what one has learned about Christ.

There is time for reflection and silence, and plenty of songs, laughter, discussion, prayer, liturgies, and breaks to make it a most enjoyable experience.

| Winter/Spring Dates:

February 1—4 (Men) February 22—25 (Women) October 24–27 (Men) November 21-24 (Women)

March 21—24 (Men) | April 25—28 (Women)

The retreat costs \$195 for the weekend and includes program materials, lodging, and meals. Please reach out if the cost prevents you from joining us, as help is always available.



#### My Dear Friends in Christ:

The Catholic Appeal is an exercise of love.

Through the Catholic Appeal, we respond to our call to love God and one another, actively helping others to realize the hope for a better future. For many, the line between hope and despair is thin. The Appeal serves as a tangible sign of our concern for those in need and allows us to bring them the presence of the Lord, to heal brokenness and restore hope. For so very many, our outreach is the light that helps them find a way forward.

Pope Francis often cites St. Paul's call for us not to be complacent or grow weary of doing good. With recognition of the many people who look to us for assistance, now, more than ever, I humbly ask for your support of the Catholic Appeal. This year, I am hopeful that, as a family of faith, we may unite in our involvement because extraordinary participation will have an extraordinary impact for our neighbors in need.

Please know of my gratitude for your generosity and compassion. Together, we affirm our belief that suffering and disappointment can be transformed into new life through the power of our being witnesses and agents of Christ's unconditional love.

Asking God's blessings upon you and all whom you hold dear, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Boston

+ Span, Ofmay

# EXTRAORDINARY PARTICIPATION creates EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

As Catholics, we are all called to be stewards of our faith. Every person's gift to the Catholic Appeal unifies our Archdiocese and weaves us together into God's tapestry of care. The urgency of need in our communities is great. Your generosity has an extraordinary impact on the life of the Church and its ability to touch, heal, and serve the thousands of lives in our Archdiocese through programs and ministries such as these:

#### **HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY**

Gifts to the Catholic Appeal serve thousands of lives across the Archdiocese through ministries like our hospital chaplaincy programs that bring pastoral care, spiritual guidance, and sacraments to patients and health care workers in dark hours of crisis.

No matter the hour, chaplains bring compassion, support, and love to those who are facing fear, illness, and even death. They minister to staff and strengthen them spiritually as they care for others. They walk with families through times of great joy and great sorrow. They carry a sense of calm and peace into moments of crisis, relying on the power of listening and their quiet presence to communicate Christ's loving companionship, even in the darkest hours.

"We see a lot of trauma incidents. Some nights we may get called 2-5 times to a bedside. We spend time with the patient and family and simply comfort them. And then we use our discretion as to when to leave them alone." — Fr. Ignatius Nze, Hospital Chaplain

Through the Hospital Chaplaincy program, Catholics and non-Catholics experience comfort and grace and come to know that they are not alone.

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**12**MEN ADMITTED
TO SEMINARIES
EACH YEAR





#### PARISH VIBRANCY

The Catholic Appeal fortifies our parishes so that each congregation's unique culture can flourish and grow in vibrancy. Diverse parish ministries and programs foster connectedness where every person can feel a sense of belonging.

"Parishes are families made up of families. And as families, we have to support each other and build each other up so that we can all thrive together. That's what the Catholic Appeal does, in my view – it allows us to help each other thrive.

The Appeal supports us behind the scenes; there are so many things that are hidden, that people don't see when they come to Mass on Sunday. But, if we don't have them, we don't function. We don't thrive."—Fr. Marc Bishop, Pastor of the Catholic Parishes of Arlington

It is in our parishes that our faith comes alive in holiness and happiness, where we share each other's burdens and celebrate the milestones of life. Where the Gospel is proclaimed and where believers are formed. Where we find a continual font of support for our Christian discipleship.

Parishes are communities of mission, purpose, and action; they are the home of our Christian communities and the heart of our Catholic Church.

#### **VOCATIONS**

Appeal contributions sustain vocation and youth ministry programs where the next generation is formed and prepared to lead our Church.

Vocations are integral to the life of the Church. Through the Office of Vocations, a new generation of priests and deacons are formed and supported to lead our Church forward in faith. Others are called to joyfully explore the potential of God's call on his or her life and be supported in their prayer and discernment. Gifts to the Appeal are vital in the active promotion of vocations by which each of us learns of God's intricate design on our lives.

"We accompany every year dozens and dozens of men, young and old, who hear that faint question and feel that subtle nudge – 'could Jesus be inviting me to follow after Him, and to love His people, as a priest?' Because of your help, we are able to admit over 12 men to our seminaries every year – where they are formed to become priests who will bring Jesus to you and your families." —Fr. Eric Cadin, Director of Vocations

Through the Office of Vocations, the perpetuation of our Catholic faith finds hope as young men come to hear God's call and follow Him.





## Let's move Forward in Faith together with a gift to this year's Catholic Appeal. Help to share Christ's hope and love with all those who seek it.

If you have received Cardinal Seán's letter in the mail and already made your gift or pledge, thank you! If not, there are several ways you can participate in the 2024 Catholic Appeal:

- Use an in-pew envelope and return it to your parish. Most parishes will conduct an in-pew presentation next week during Masses.
- Make an online donation by scanning the code below or visiting bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now

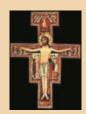


For a greater sustained impact, select the recurring gift option. Your monthly donation will continue until you tell us to stop.

- Make a gift through your Donor-Advised Fund using Tax ID #04-2106175 (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston) and include Catholic Appeal and your home parish in the donation details.
- Make a planned gift in the form of a bequest, stock or property transfer, IRA distribution, or charitable gift annuity.

To learn more, visit **bostoncatholicappeal.org/ways-to-give.** Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law: Tax ID #04-2106175.





#### MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

You've often heard me say that "while we live *in* the world, we are to never live *of* the world, and that we must never forget *why* we are here". In today's gospel we hear of Jesus' encounter with the moneychangers in the temple and how He "upsets the applecart" (as my mother would say) by overturning the tables of those buying and selling animals for the ritual sacrifice done in the temple. As I recently heard someone say in a homily, the temple in Jesus' day looked less like the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and more like the local butcher shop. It was not so much the ritual sacrifice to which Jesus was opposed, but how it was being handled. It was seen less of an offering to God as it was a financial transaction that would have happened in any marketplace.

St. Francis would have looked upon the moneychangers with much the same distain as Jesus did. It was not that he was averse to buying and selling of goods, for even St. Francis would have seen this (at the very least) as a "necessary evil", something that would take place regardless of the venue. St. Francis had a special place in his heart, however, for places such as the Church of San Damiano or the Portiuncula in Assisi, and would not want to see the purity of such places besmirched by the common selling of goods.

St. Francis' theology was, at its roots, incarnational. It was no accident that we are called to live in the world, either in open society or in a cloistered environment. And houses of worship are meant to be part of that world, giving the faithful a place to pray, a touchstone to grow closer to God, and an opportunity to feel the joining of heaven and earth. We are, for the most part, called to be present to the world and its inhabitants. We are not to forget, however, *why* we are here. We are meant to be temples of the Holy Spirit and members of the Body of Christ. May we, as we gather to give praise and thanks to God in our places of worship, never turn our churches and chapels into a "marketplace" (John 2:16) and let them continue to be avenues of grace and love for all.

Pax et Bonum.

Fr. Paul, OFS

#### THIS WEEKS'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR The Snow and Heat Fund

## NEXT WEEK WILL BE FOR Rills

#### The Merciful Anger of Jesus

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Watch your fellow churchgoers today as the priest or deacon reads the story of Jesus raising hell (or perhaps he's raising heaven?) in the temple square. Dollars to donuts, they'll be squirming.

As Catholics, we have become very uncomfortable with Angry Jesus. He makes us cringe in the same way that the Old Testament God does when He calls Himself "jealous" and talks about punishment. That level of intensity makes us recoil. If it were present in a human relationship, it would be toxic and abusive, because in humanity, fierceness and love rarely coexist in a healthy way.

But what a tragedy it would be for us to mistake our relationship with God for our relationship with our spouse, our best friend, or even our human father. Because we cannot see clearly, we would mistake His zeal for anger and His law for diktat.

The strong and sure movement of a wave against a rocky cliff will, over time, erode its surface, just as an overabundance of raindrops will flood a city. We do not call the water callous and cruel. We still luxuriate in its coolness and refreshment. Its destructive powers don't negate the life-giving properties of water. We do not demand that water apologize to us for being strong.

Fierce, uncompromising — but also, soft and merciful. How can God — and God's law — be both, at the same time? How can Christ cast a whip at someone's foot, overturn a table and scatter coins? How can the law of God be perfect, as the Psalm says, and refresh the soul — while demanding so much of it?

All I can say is, thank God for Angry Jesus. We need his fierceness and thank God it does not wane because it confuses us. Thank God his mercy does not decrease because we doubt it.

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." — 1 Corinthians 1:25

**©LPi** 

#### **COLLABORATIVE NEWS AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT JOHN'S**



#### **St Ann Prayer Line:**

To request prayers from members of Saint Ann's Prayer Line for yourself, another person in need, or a special intention, please call or email Linda Santry at 508-586-6535 or linda@santry.org. If you would like to

join the telephone tree or e-mail distribution list, please contact Linda. We would like to expand our membership for this worthy endeavor.

Please keep the following in your prayers:
Denise Robichaud, Patricia Estes, William
Neyman, Jim Cassidy, Frank Conroy, Kay
Evans, Angela McDevitt, Karen & Janet Daly,
Kathy Conrad, Joan Ward-Fusco, Kenneth
McLaughlin, Fred Sprague, Joe Pigeon, Nancy McHugh,
Jerry Paluch, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan
Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane,
Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchill, Matthew Owings, Arthur
Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen,
Eileen Doherty, Louise Ferrari, Dan & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving
in the military.

Giving alms, Jesus teaches, means making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world. They are all around us: children and the old, the sick and the suffering, families and individuals, next-door neighbors and people in lands faraway.

Whatever we give should be something of ourselves, something that costs us. We will receive blessings from God in return.

Pope Francis said in his Ash Wednesday homily, 'Lent is also a privileged time for prayer', He quoted St. Augustine, who described fasting and almsgiving as "the two wings of prayer," because they are signs of humility and charity.

Prayer offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Prayer provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns and sins. We should pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

During Lent do you think God needs the chocolate, candy, and other trivial things we give up? No He needs us to look deep within ourselves and reflect. He wants our hearts.

So when you fast, do not proclaim it, do not look hard done by, smile and go about your day happy. We are told this in the Bible.

In fact he wants us to stop our obsession with the ME and start thinking about what truly matters in life.

www.catholic.org/lent/story.php?

West Bridgewater Food Pantry
457 Rear, South Main Street, Unit #1
West Bridgewater

WHEN: Curbside distribution the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday each month

TIME: 1:45-3:00PM or 5:30-6:00PM

Tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal are needed.

Cash donations also accepted

St Ann's ST. VINCENT DE PAUL P O Box 474 West Bridgewater MA 02379

To join please call — TINA ANTHONY 508-245-5481

Donations are always appreciated. Place Money and gift cards \$5-\$25 into the St. Vincent de Paul boxes located at the exits.

Because of your generosity, we were able to put together 16 toiletry bags for our homeless neighbors and were able to donate some toiletry items to the food bank.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul Saint John's Conference PO Box 544

East Bridgewater MA 02333
Call the Food Pantry Hotline for food / assistance
Hotline—508-378-3760

## PANTRY HOURS WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Our pantry is open on the First and Third Monday of each month. When pantry days fall on a major holiday, the pantry will open on the Tuesday of that week.

First Monday - 3:00 - 5:30 Third Monday - 3:00 - 4:30

Monday, March 4, 2024 Monday, March 18, 2024

Donations are always appreciated but please call to let us know you are dropping off. 508-378-3760

The Pantry is a little low — needed any food, especially tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal.

Gift cards are also a great help. \$5 — \$25 cards are easier to distribute that large sums., ie \$100

Thank you for your continued generosity.

#### **NEWS**

Easter is around the corner. Please remember to have your loved ones remembered by donating to the Easter Flower Fund.



#### HOLY WEEK

March 24, 2024 — Palm Sunday Masses as usual

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 — Tenebae — St Ann's —7 PM

Thursday, March 28, 2024 — Holy Thursday Mass at St. John's — 7 PM

Fríday, March 29, 2024 —
Seven LastWords — 3 PM — St. John's
7 PM — Servíce at St. Ann's

Saturday, March 30, 2024 — Easter Vígíl 8 PM — St. John's

Sunday, March 31, 2024 — Easter Regular Mass Schedule with the Exception of no 6:15 Mass

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508-378-3991

